



LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Message from the Chair



Cedric L. Richmond

The unprecedented devastation that Hurricane Katrina imparted on the city of New Orleans and the surrounding areas has forced us to reach into the depths of our souls to rediscover the hope, faith and fortitude that has defined Louisianians for centuries.

While Hurricane Katrina flooded our homes, separated our families and destroyed our businesses, rendering many of us homeless, jobless and unsure as to the whereabouts of our family members, she has not decimated our spirit. This too shall pass, and we will rise from this storm a stronger, more united people.

At this critical juncture in our state's history, the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus stands ready to ensure that the needs of the thousands of displaced African-Americans of Southeast Louisiana are met. We are working in cooperation with the federal, state and local governments demanding that our voices be heard. While we are extremely grateful to the surrounding states who have unselfishly heeded our calls for assistance and cared for our people during this period of urgency, we are ready to return our people to their homes and reunite them with their families. It is now time to repair our

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THE LLBC TOURS AREA SHELTERS

We are working aggressively to connect and communicate with Hurricane Katrina survivors. Last week members of the Caucus visited evacuees in Houston, Dallas, Shreveport, Monroe, Opelousas and Ville Platte. In an effort to address certain issues, we established this newsletter that will hopefully serve as a vehicle to share information as it comes to us.

The Caucus is working daily to find solutions to the many problems that were created as a result of Hurricane Katrina. More importantly, we recognize the importance of including the interests of all those who contribute to the City's history, culture and charm. Our City's human capital is its most important asset. New Orleans can't be rebuilt without our constituents. We are committed to you.

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN YOU GO HOME

The Mayor of the City of New Orleans, C. Ray Nagin, was forced to hold off on plans to allow residents of certain zip codes to repopulate the city because of the apparent threat of Hurricane Rita. No one knows how long the second mandatory evacuation will hold, however, once the Mayor allows New Orleanians to return the LLBC recommends the following:

1. If you have not had shots within the last five years get the shots, or get a booster shot before returning to the city.
2. Retrieve your important documents (ID, medical papers, insurance papers, etc.)
3. Take pictures of your property to document damage.
4. Collect all your personal and cherished items. Make sure to wipe them clean.
5. Don't drink, bathe, cook, or clean with the water! Bring bottled water!
6. Do not take infants or small children into the city.
7. Do not cancel your hotel accommodations until you are

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is hiring temporary workers to support the delivery of services to victims of Hurricane Katrina. To apply for a position, submit a resume to P.O. box 5097, 750 Florida St., B.R. LA., 70802. Resumes should include your social security number, work experience, education, special skills, a self-certification of U.S. citizenship and contact information. Once your application is submitted, the Human Resources staff will review for qualifications.

Applications are being taken for the following positions:

- IT Specialist (LA-1603-002)-\$24.00 per hour
- Interpreters (LA-1603-005) -\$20.00 per hour

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PHONE BANK

**American Red Cross
Disaster Assistance
1-800-975-7585**

**American Red Cross
Missing Family Members
1-877-LOVED-1S
568-3317**

**FEMA
1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**

**Find Family
National Call Center
1-800-326-9393**

**LA Housing Finance Authority
1-866-310-7971**

**LA Department of Labor
Unemployment
1-800-818-7811**

**LA Department of
Social Services (Food Stamps)
1-888-524-3578**

**Postal Service
1-800-275-8777**

**Salvation Army
1-888-363-2769**

**Social Security
1-800-772-1213
1-800-325-0778 (TTY)**

**WIC
1-800-251-BABY (2229)**

Chair's msg. cont.

broken city.

We are demanding that African Americans businesses remain involved in the rebuilding process and that the African American workforce be employed. We will rebuild our schools and create the type of educational system deserving of our children — our future. We intend to free our people from the chains of poverty that have stifled their growth for so many years, and create a new environment where every individual is given the tools for success.

As all of us begin the process of returning home, remember that the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is committed to protecting the interests of our people. We must embrace this catastrophe as a chance for a new beginning. This is a novel opportunity for us to join together in the spirit of cooperation to rebuild our city, recreate ourselves and return to our glorious city. We look forward to seeing you at home, in the new-New Orleans. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Employments Opportunities cont.

- Human Resources Specialist (LA-1603-006)- \$20.00 per hour
- Human Resources Assistance (LA-16-3-007)-\$14.50 per hour
- Telephone Technicians (LA-1603-002) - \$17.00 per hour
- Debris Monitor (LA01603-003) -\$17.00
- General Administrative Support (LA-1603-001) -\$15.00 per hour
- Forklift Operator (LA-1603-001) -\$13.00
- Courier/Driver (LA-1603-004) -\$10.00 per hour

All qualified applicants will undergo a security background check. Pre-employment screening and FBI fingerprinting are required.

SALES TAX REFUNDS

The Louisiana Department of Revenue has adopted an Emergency Rule concerning the refunds authorized by R.S. 47:315.1 of state sales taxes paid on property destroyed in natural disasters. You must keep all sales receipts. This Emergency Rule can be accessed from the department's web site at:

http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/forms/lawspolicies/LAC61_I_4371_2.pdf.

SALLIE MAE ASSISTANCE

Sallie Mae will grant automatic payment relief to student loan customers in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The company will also extend the same payment relief terms authorized by the U.S. Department of Education for federally guaranteed loans to its private loan customers. Customers who have other questions about their student loan accounts should contact the company toll-free at 1-888/2-SALLIE (1-888/272-5543) or log on to the Manage Your Loans section of www.SallieMae.com.

Displaced students may also apply for an interest-free loan through June 1, 2006. The loan is a one-time relief loan of up to \$1000.00. You may qualify for a relief loan if you applied for a Sallie Mae loan during the 2005/2006 academic year and you were enrolled at a Louisiana or Mississippi area school.

For a list of qualifying schools visit the LLBC website at, www.llbc.louisiana.gov.

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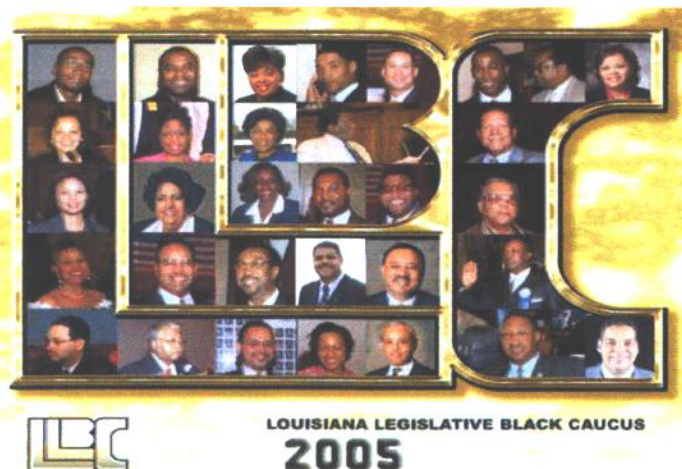
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